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The W-A-S came into existence July 19th, 1956, after having gone through the usual formalities of organizational meetings. A constitution, by-laws, and code of ethics were formally adopted on this day. On January 24th, 1961, the W-A-S was incorporated under the provisions of Chapter 24,16 of the laws of the State of Washington. Article II of these papers states

"That the purposes for which this corporation is formed are:

1. To gather, study, disseminate and preserve archaeological knowledge and objects by the active participation of its members and in collaboration with programs of archaeological investigations, research, publications, and historical, literary, scientific and artistic purposes connected herewith.
2. To do and perform such other functions and acts allowed under the statutes of the State of Washington under which this corporation is formed.

Section 1 of Article I of the By-Laws reads

Membership is open to any person who can demonstrate to the membership committee a genuine interest in the subject of archaeology and agreement with the purposes of the Washington Archaeological Society and its Code of Ethics. ~~and S=~~

In the Code of Ethics and Statement of Policy there is the provision "to place all records, artifacts and observations made while working on a Society sponsored dig in the Washington State Museum or another designated museum as part of the the permanent records." It is true that the artifacts recovered on a Society sponsored dig stay together with all the documentation and ends up in a museum. This constitutes the major difference between the W-A-S and many other amateur based archaeological societies. Our group has a professional orientation and the hard core of the Society holds to this premise. While the professional is openly critical of any activity that smaks of pot-hunting, we recognize that the two positions can have a defense. In fact they are related because the evolution of the professional often starts with the indiscriminate collector. Motivation makes the difference. The amateur-professional syndrome has all sorts of problems that would take us far away ^{from} ~~for~~ the activities of the W-A-S. There is one thought I would like to leave with you, it is very satisfying to make a contribution at the professional level and have it accepted. Its better than finding that special goodie.

Notes BY CGN